(घ) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन): (क) से (ङ) मनमाड औरंगाबाद खंड के आमान परिवर्तन के बाद बम्बई वी० टी० तक एक रात्रिकालीन एक्सप्रेस गाड़ी तथा पुणें तक एक पैसेंजर गाड़ी चलाने सहित तीन गाड़ियां चलाई गई हैं। इस समय इस खंड पर कोई और गाड़ी चलाने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है क्योंकि औरंगाबाद से आगे आमान परिवर्तन कार्य पहले ही प्रगति पर है। पूरे खंड का बड़ी लाइन में आमान परिवर्तन हो जाने के बाद ही और गाड़ियां चलाने पर विचार किया जाएगा।

**Corruption in the Reservation of Train Tickets**

1062. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that corrupt practices are adopted during the peak, holiday and summer seasons in the reservation of train tickets ; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to overcome these unfair practices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Surprise checks and raids are con-' ducted by the Vigilance organisations of all Zonal Railways including Vigilance Special Squad of Railway Board in the Reservation and Booking Offices located throughout the country to curb such malpractices.

(ii) Special concerted drives to check malpractice's in the Reservation Offices are undertaken atleast twice a year during summer rush, holidays and during Durga Puja/Dussehra/Diwali period.

(iii) Under the Railway Act 1989 the punishment for touts who illegally purchase tickets in fictitious names and later on sell the same to other person, has been substantially increased.

(iv) The penalty (fine)' for passengers who travel on tickets purchased in fictitious name has likewise, been increased from Rs. 250 to Rs. 500.

(v) Public are educated/exhorted through press, television, posters, etc. not to buy tickets from unauthorised persons.

(vi) Checks are conducted in trains to detect passengers travelling on tickets purchased in fictitious names and they arc treated as ticketless passengers.

(vii) The Railway staff found includinr. in malpractices in the matter of reservatior of tickets are taken up severely under Discipline and Appeal Rules.

**Scount Group to Aardh Kumbh Mela ai Hardwar**

1063. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleas ed to state :

(a) Whether the Railway Board Scou Group was sent to Aardh Kumbh Mela a Hardwar recently ;

(b) if so, the number of persons sen alongwith the nature of duties performec and the amount spent each day.

(c) Whether any organisation had invit ed Railway Board Scout Group to thi 'Mela' ;

(d) if so the details thereof and if not the reasons for attending the 'Mela' at it own;

(e) Whether the Railway Board Scou Group had confined itself at Railwa Station ;

(f) Whether no class-T officer of Railwa had ever accompanied the Railway Boar Scouts to any of its tour so far to ovei see their performance ;

(g) Whether any age limit has been fixed for the members of Railway Board Scout Group ;

(h) if so. the details therof ; and (i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARIUN) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) to (e) At the call of the National Headquarters for Scouts & Guides, 7 Rovers & 4 Unit leaders were deputed at Hard-war in connection with Aardh Kumbh Mela. The duties assigned to these Scouts were to assist the passengers in detraining & entraining, guiding them to Mela areas, Booking Counters, Mela enclosures & Platforms. They were given Special Casual Leave and Special passes.

(f) No Group 'A' Officer of Railway is normally sent to accompany the Railway Board Scouts.

(g) to (i) The upper age limit prescribed for the Rovers is 35 years and all the 7 Rovers were below 35 years of age. However,, no upper age limit has been prescribed for the Unit leader.

**Free Passes and P.T.Os to Railway employees**

1064. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

I. *During Service*

(a) whether Railway erripldyees are issued Free Passes and P.T.Os during service period and after retirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof for Gazetted and Non-Gazetted employees ;

(c) whether the number of Free Passes issued to Gazetted and Non-Gazetted employees after retirement are not equal ;

(d) if so. (he reasons for such discrimination ;

(e) whether Free Passes and P.T.Os are issued to widows and family of Railway employees after death of railway employees whether in service or after retirement ;

(f) if so, the details therof ;

(g) whether the number of P.T.Os being issued to railway employees reduced from six to four is with written consent of employees : and

(h) if so. the details thereof and it not, the reasons for such arbitrary reduction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) :(a) and (b) Railway employees are granted Privilege Passes and Privilege Ticket Orders during service and Post-retirement Complimentary Passes after retirement, as prescribed in the Railway Servants (Pass) Rules, as under :

| Group | Privilege Passes | Privilege Ticket Orders |
|---|---|---|
| Gazetted (Groups A & B) | 6 sets per year | |
| Non-Gazetted (Groups C & D) | (i) 1 set per year during the first five years of service.<br>(ii) 3 sets per year after five years of service. | 4 sets per year |